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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

McEldowney: Turkey Must Deal With Iraq on PKK Issue -
Hurriyet
Blair: Coalition to Withdraw When Iraq Violence Ends -
Hurriyet
Israel Expects Ankara to Denounce Tehran - Milliyet
Cicek: Europe Not Honest in Combating Terror - Turkiye
UN Approves Syria Resolution - Hurriyet
China, Russia Save Syria - Milliyet
Annan Gives No Timetable on Cyprus - Milliyet
Bomb Attack in Basra Kills 20 - Sabah
Cheney to Testify on CIA Leak - Sabah
Popular Support for Bush Sinks to 39 Percent - Sabah
UNICEF: 17,000 Children Killed in Pakistan Quake - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

McEldowney: Cooperation between Turkey-Iraq Essential -
Radikal
McEldowney to Turkey: Improve Ties with Iraq - Cumhuriyet
McEldowney Points to Iraq for PKK Solution - Yeni Safak
Talat: Cyprus Solution to be Under UN Umbrella - Radikal
Blair Hosts Barzani - Radikal
Barzani Thanks Blair for Liberating Iraq - Zaman
Iraq Lies Shake Washington - Cumhuriyet
Republicans Pressure Bush to Change Staff - Radikal
Addington to Replace Libby - Radikal
UN Invites Syria to Cooperate - Zaman
US Strikes Iraqi Civilians Again: 40 Killed - Yeni Safak
Basrans Furious at British Troops - Yeni Safak
Israel, US Want Iran Denounced - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

US Plans for Politicizing the PKK: "Cumhuriyet" claims that the US is preparing to make the PKK part of the new independent Kurdish state to be established in northern Iraq. On September 13, Iraq President Talabani and President Bush discussed plans in Washington to work out a political solution to the PKK issue, the report claims. On October 4, an American delegation accompanied by KDP peshmerge reportedly went to the Kandil Mountains to meet with PKK ringleader Cemil Bayik to persuade the group to lay down its arms. Bayik demanded that the PKK be recognized as a political party, and that its imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan, be set free. The report claims that the US delegation promised to support the political activities of the PKK if the militants agreed to lay down their weapons. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan warned the US at a party group meeting on October 19 that Turkey expected effective steps to eliminate terror groups in the region. Traffic among Kurdish leaders and the US accelerated after Erdogan's warning, the paper argues. Turkey, angered at the meeting between Bush and 'President' Barzani, has been told that Bush urged Barzani to keep the PKK under control, protect the Turkmen, and defend Iraq's territorial integrity. The article claims that the US wants to 'distract Turkey's attention' while Americans work to accommodate the PKK into the new Kurdish state.

Ankara to Review Iran Policy: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Turkey is to review its Iran policy following a recent statement by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that Israel should be wiped off the map. The paper claims that Turkey is preparing to adopt a stronger position toward Tehran, and will support international resolutions to block Iran's nuclear activities. Dailies also report that the Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom sent a letter to his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, to express his disappointment with the Turkish response to Ahmadinejad's remarks. The MFA has given no response to Pinhas Avivi, the Israeli

Ambassador to Ankara, who had asked for an appointment to convey the letter to Gul. Pro-government "Yeni Safak" reports that US embassy officials had also raised the issue at the foreign ministry, and had urged Ankara to make a more forceful response.

McEldowney on the PKK, Cyprus, Ambassador Wilson: US Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney told the press on Monday after her visit to the Anatolia Contemporary Education Foundation that President Bush, at a meeting at the White House last week, reiterated to Massoud Barzani and his delegation the need to take action against the PKK in northern Iraq. McEldowney said President Bush has explained to Barzani that Iraq should be preserved as a unified, democratic, and federal entity, stressing again the importance the US places on strong, positive ties between Iraq and Turkey. 'What we want to do is establish democracy and stability in the region. Making such an endeavor a reality depends on strong ties between Iraq and Turkey. This is the only way to overcome the problems in the region, including the PKK,' McEldowney said. She noted that the US is working to ease the isolation of Turkish Cypriots, and to reach a fair and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem. McEldowney also said that Ross Wilson, President Bush's nominee as the new US envoy to Ankara, is a very experienced and skilled diplomat. She added that Wilson's nomination to Ankara indicated the importance the United States gives to Turkey. The Charge emphasized that Wilson's appointment must be approved after a hearing at the US Senate, and she declined to predict when the new US Ambassador will arrive in Ankara.

Turkey Slams Belgium for not Trying Erdal: On Monday the Turkish government strongly criticized Belgium for deciding not to try terror suspect Fehriye Erdal for offences she committed in Turkey, papers report. The Belgian court had decided previously that Erdal's offences in Turkey, including the alleged murder of Turkish businessman Ozdemir Sabanci, would not be classified as 'terror crimes,' but that she would be charged with carrying firearms, participating in the activities of an outlawed terrorist organization, and using forged identity cards. Erdal, a member of the leftist terrorist group DHKP-C, is suspected of killing Sabanci and his two aides on January 9, 1996 with the help of two other DHKPC members. Erdal was captured on September 26, 1999 in Belgium for carrying a forged passport. Belgium rejected Turkey's demand to extradite Erdal, and also rejected Erdal's application for asylum. Turkish government spokesman and Justice Minister Cemil Cicek recalled that Turkey had asked Belgium to extradite Erdal to Turkey. 'They refused our demand, citing the existence of capital punishment in Turkey. However, when we abolished capital punishment they pledged to try her for crimes committed in Turkey. Now, it seems they will try her just for the offences committed in Belgium,' Cicek said after the council of ministers meeting in Ankara yesterday.

Turkey's Objections to EU Partnership Accession Document: Ankara is uneasy with EU demands for giving Greek Cypriots access to Turkish ports, allowing official education in Kurdish, linking the Turkish General Staff (TGS) to the Defense Ministry and solving border disputes, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Diplomatic sources say that Turkey will voice objections to these demands lined up in the accession partnership accord prepared by the EU. Turkey will reject EU calls to normalize ties with Nicosia and opening Turkish harbors to the Greek Cypriots as long as the isolation of north Cyprus continues. Ankara says that private Kurdish language schools opened in various provinces had been closed due to low interest. Ankara also underlines the fact that the state-owned TRT television was already broadcasting programs in Kurdish. Ankara says that it bears no responsibility regarding border disputes with Greece and Armenia. International agreements offered a solution to disagreements with Greece, according to Ankara. Turks reject the EU proposal to link the TGS to the Defense Ministry in the short term, saying that new adjustments were needed to meet EU demands on the subject. Turkish officials said that Ankara kept in touch with Brussels to make the necessary changes to the document, says "Cumhuriyet."

EU Progress Report on Turkey: "Vatan" reports that in an 18-page progress report sent to the European Union (EU), Turkey refers to Kurdish as 'a dialect, not a language,' and adds that the state broadcaster TRT is airing programs in Bosnian and Arabic as well as Kurdish dialects. The report points to the civilianization of the National Security Council (NSC) and to judicial reforms. It notes that information regarding the Alevis had been added to schoolbooks. The report notes that 127,000 out of 360,000 displaced people have returned to their villages in the southeast. The report also claims that the Turkish government has given a positive response to requests to clarify the legal status of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul. The government says it plans to release a regulation with regard to the functions of the Patriarchate.

Talat Seeks New UN Cyprus Initiative: Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat said on Monday that the European Union (EU) was not the party to solve the Cyprus problem. Talat argued that the United Nations has established the only legitimate basis for handling the issue. 'The EU is not impartial,' Talat said in an evaluation of Greek Cypriot policies to push the EU to the foreground in efforts to seek a settlement. 'During talks with UNSYG Annan, we reaffirmed our conviction that the lifting of isolation will contribute to the solution of the problem, and that it will provide for unification, not division. We hope that the UN Secretary General will assess these developments and launch an initiative,' Talat said after meeting with Annan in New York. Talat noted that the UN Secretary General will engage in a new peace process only if it can be successful. 'It is common knowledge that Annan is not willing to initiate a new negotiation process before preparing the groundwork. He believes that Cyprus is a serious problem that may affect Turkey's accession to the EU, causing instability in the region. An initiative will be made, but its time, place, and conditions are unknown,' Talat stated.

Athens on Turkish Protests against Ecumenical Patriarchate: A spokesman for the Greek Government said on Monday that Education and Religious Affairs Minister Marietta Yiannakou and Deputy Foreign Minister Panayiotis Skandalakis had spoken to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in the wake of a protest last weekend by some 150 Turkish extreme nationalists outside the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul, the government-affiliated Athens News Agency (ANA) reports. A statement by the Greek Foreign Ministry reiterated the Greek government's strong support for Patriarch Bartholomew I and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Turkey to Buy 120 Jetfighters: "Milliyet" reports that Turkey has invited bids to buy 120 new generation fighter planes worth 5-8 billion USD. Turkey is seeking bids from Alenia Aeronautica, Lockheed Martin, and Boeing. Turkey's move to buy jetfighters is seen as a search for an alternative to the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) project of the US, Britain and Italy.

Terror Suspects Arrested: On Monday, Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah said that eight suspects had been arrested in two operations launched against the outlawed PKK. Cerrah said that six PKK were arrested for the explosion that occurred at a gas station in Istanbul's Maslak neighborhood on October 15. He noted that two other suspects were arrested in an operation against a religiously-motivated terrorist organization. Meanwhile, four terrorists, including a woman, surrendered to security forces in Silopi, in southeastern city of Sirnak.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iran; Syria

"New Signs of Danger"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (11/1): "The recent remarks of the Iranian president provide some insight into the Iranian stance on certain issues. Ahmedinejad's harsh remarks against Israel and his insistence on maintaining Iran's nuclear program indicate that Tehran plans to increase its regional influence and is ready to stand against international pressure to protect its nuclear program. . In fact, nobody believes that Iran is going to declare war against Israel. But the Tehran regime has the intention of weakening Israel by increasing support for organizations such as Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad, and others. Iran's position on this sensitive issue and the pressure from the international community mean that tension in the region and the potential for conflict will remain high. Iran seems to be a candidate for being the 'axis of danger' in 2006."

"Iran's Satellite"

Fikret Ertan commented in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (11/1): "Iran is exerting extraordinary efforts to develop its space program while continuing to improve its conventional military power. The latest example of these efforts is the first civilian Iranian satellite that was launched into space in coordination with Russia. This satellite has already caused a major disturbance among many countries, especially Israel. As a matter of fact, it has been reported that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during his visit to Israel on the same day the Iranian SINA-1 satellite was launched, had to face Israeli deputy Prime Minister Simon Perez's questions on this issue. Of course, the main worry for other countries is whether Iran will continue with military satellites after launching civilian ones. If it does, we need to look at what the characteristics of such satellites would be, such as their range and capacity."

"A Sequel to 'The Godfather': Damascus"

Cengiz Candar commented in the tabloid "Bugun" (11/1): "The Mehliis report is actually an interim report, because the UN

investigation has not yet been concluded. Completion of the investigation requires Syria's cooperation. This is a problem, because both the Syrian president's brother and his uncle are suspects in the killing. President Assad's personal role has also yet to be clarified. The minority dictatorship in Syria is moving toward implosion. The Syrian investigation is already on the UN agenda, so an American intervention against Syria seems unlikely. In fact, it is not necessary at all. The Syrian regime may well collapse after going through a period of internal conflict. The Mehlis report paves the way for that."

MCELDOWNEY